

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 23 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/DE2004/002599 without prejudice.

Please add new claims as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 23 (cancelled).

Claim 24 (new): A method for manufacturing gas turbine components, comprising:
 providing at least one metal powder and at least one foaming agent;
 mixing the at least one metal powder with the at least one foaming agent,
 compacting the resulting mixture to form at least one precursor; and
 foaming the at least one precursor by heating the at least one precursor in a mold until a defined degree of foaming is reached;
 cooling the at least one precursor when the defined degree of foaming is reached to terminate the foaming, the cooled at least one precursor being at least one gas turbine component having a closed and supporting exterior wall.

Claim 25 (new): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the at least one metal powder is selected from the group consisting of an aluminum-based alloy, a titanium-based alloy, a nickel-based alloy, an intermetallic alloy, and combinations thereof.

Claim 26 (new): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the at least one foaming agent comprises titanium hydride.

Claim 27 (new): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the compacting step comprises compacting by extrusion or axial pressing.

Claim 28 (new): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the at least one metal powder includes a plurality of metal powders, each of the plurality of metal powders having different melting points.

Claim 29 (new): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the at least one metal powder includes a plurality of metal powders, each of the plurality of metal powders having different powder granularities.

Claim 30 (new): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein said mixing comprises mixing the at least one metal powder with the at least one foaming agent and with a material selected from the group consisting of ceramic particles, ceramic fibers and combinations thereof.

Claim 31 (new): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein at least one supporting and/or function-relevant component made of a non-foamable material is at least partially surrounded by foam or partially embedded in foam during the foaming step.

Claim 32 (new): The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the at least one precursor to be foamed and the component to be partially surrounded by foam or partially embedded in foam are made of the same material.

Claim 33 (new): The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the at least one precursor to be foamed and the component to be partially surrounded by foam or partially embedded in foam are made of different materials.

Claim 34 (new): The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the at least one gas turbine component is a blade, and wherein when the at least one precursor is foamed in the mold, a blade root made of a non-foamable material is partially surrounded by foam or partially embedded in foam during the foaming step.

Claim 35 (new): The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the at least one gas turbine component includes a blade, and wherein the at least one precursor is foamed in a mold with at least one integrated flow channel, at least one component forming the flow channel being surrounded by foam during the foaming process.

Claim 36 (new): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the at least one gas turbine component includes a plurality of individual blades or blade segments formed from a corresponding plurality of precursors, and wherein the method further comprises
fixedly joining the plurality of individual blades or blade segments with a forged or cast rotor carrier via soldering or welding.

Claim 37 (new): The method as recited in Claim 24, further comprising, subsequent to the cooling step, coating a surface of the at least one gas turbine component.

Claim 38 (new): A gas turbine component, comprising a component made at least partially of a metal foam, wherein the metal foam forms a closed and supporting exterior wall of the component, the component being one of a blade, a blade segment, and a rotor having integral blades.

Claim 39 (new): The gas turbine component as recited in Claim 38, wherein the metal foam has a locally variable porosity adapted to a geometry of the component.

Claim 40 (new): The gas turbine component as recited in Claim 38, wherein ceramic particles and/or ceramic fibers are incorporated in the metal foam.

Claim 41 (new): The gas turbine component as recited in Claim 38, wherein at least one supporting and/or function-relevant component made of a non-foamable material is at least partially embedded in the metal foam.

Claim 42 (new): The gas turbine component as recited in Claim 38, wherein the at least one gas turbine component includes a blade and a blade root, the blade being formed from the metal

foam and having a closed exterior wall, and the blade root being made of a non-foamable material which is partially embedded in the metal foam.